

# **Presentation of Our Lord**

10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist February 2, 2025

# Welcome!

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

We welcome people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and marital status, every ability and challenge.

We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

We're glad God has called you here today! If you're a guest, please feel free to introduce yourself to our pastor or assisting minister. If you would, sign the guest book in the Gathering Area or fill in a guest card, and we'll be happy to send information on how you can get involved at Immanuel.

#### Masks are now optional during worship service.

#### **Facilities**

- Our parking lot is located on the south side of the church off Sherman Avenue. You may park in the lot at
  any time, whether for church events or for shopping or other errands in downtown Evanston; weekdays,
  see the church office at the Lake St. entrance to get a parking pass. Parking meters are free until 1:00 P.M.
  on Sunday.
- The parking lot entrance is an accessible entrance. An elevator is located just inside that door.
- Restrooms are downstairs near the meeting of the two hallways. Accessible restrooms are located near the
  elevator on both upper and lower levels. A gender-neutral restroom is located on the lower level by the
  elevator.
- We love having children in worship! Activity bags are available from the ushers. There is a nursery and changing/crying room for parents to use, if needed, located downstairs. There are also changing tables in both restrooms on this level, by the elevator. An usher will be happy to direct you.
- Hearing assistance is available. Ask an usher for equipment.
- Wi-Fi is available throughout most of the building. The network is "Immanuel," password "allarewelcome."
   Please use the Internet responsibly!

#### **About Our Worship**

Our Sunday worship is organized around the proclamation of the Word of God and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. It has a familiar form each week, but the content changes for each service according to a calendar shared with many other Christians. The liturgy is printed in this bulletin. If you're worshipping via Zoom, please remain muted until you get to the part where you will be invited to unmute and participate in some parts of the liturgy, as marked by this symbol. 

■ = UNMUTE

#### **Receiving Holy Communion**

We invite you to share with us in the sacramental meal because Christ invites you! There is no specific age requirement for Communion. There are two options: You may come forward to receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. Empty glasses will be collected by the Acolyte. The other option is we have individually packaged communion with either wine or grape juice that you can pick up at the entrance of the sanctuary. The pastor will say "The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you" following the singing of the Communion Song. Please deposit the cups and wrappers in the trash receptacles as you leave the sanctuary.

# Gathering: The Holy Spirit assembles us as the People of God ...

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

**P:** Presiding Minister **L:** Leader/Assisting Minister **R:** Reader **A:** Assembly

+ All may make the sign of the cross.

**Prelude** "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" BWV 739 by J.S. Bach, Reflection on "DIVINUM MYSTERIUM" by David Blackwell, and "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here" by George Walker

# **Confession and Forgiveness**

The Assembly stands as able.

All may make the sign of the cross +, the sign that is marked at baptism as the presiding minister begins.

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.
- A 🚇 Amen.
- P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Merciful God,
- A you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.

We ignore the needs of our neighbors;

we resist your call to oppose injustice;

we give in to scarcity and fear;

we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults

and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

Restore our hearts and repair your world,

that we may live in Christ's ways.

- A 🚇 Amen.
- P God proclaims these words of assurance:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine."

In 

← Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

A Amen.





- 5 A wonderful exchange you make: you take our flesh and blood, and in return give us to share the shining realm of God, the shining realm of God.
- 6 Unlock the door again today that leads to paradise; the angel bars the way no more. To God let praises rise, to God let praises rise!

# Greeting

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- A And also with you!

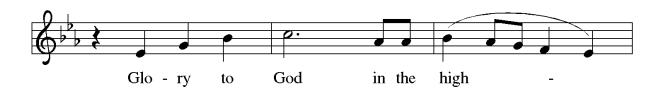














# **Prayer of the Day**

- P The Lord be with you.
- A And also with you.
- P Let us pray...

# Pause for a moment of silence...

- P Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- A Amen.

The Assembly is seated.

# Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures.

Malachi 3:1-4

R A reading from Malachi.

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

- R The Word of the Lord. Or, Word of God, word of life.
- A Thanks be to God!

The organ will play the tone, and then the refrain, and then the Assembly will sing the refrain through. The right side of the Assembly sings the lightface verses to the tone; the left side of the Assembly sings boldface verses.

All sing the refrain where indicated by "R."

#### Tone:



# Refrain:



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> How dear to me <sup>|</sup> is your dwelling,

O | Lord of hosts!

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king | and my God.

<sup>4</sup> Happy are they who dwell <sup>|</sup> in your house!

They will always be | praising you. R

<sup>6</sup> Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a | place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.

<sup>7</sup> They will climb from <sup>1</sup> height to height, and the God of gods will be <sup>1</sup> seen in Zion.

<sup>8</sup> LORD God of hosts, | hear my prayer; give ear, O | God of Jacob. R

<sup>9</sup> Behold our defend- <sup>|</sup> er, O God; and look upon the face of <sup>|</sup> your anointed.

<sup>10</sup> For one day in your courts is better than a | thousand elsewhere.

I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents  $^{\parallel}$  of the wicked.

- <sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing <sup>I</sup> grace and glory; no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk <sup>I</sup> with integrity.
- <sup>12</sup> O | Lord of hosts,

happy are they who put their  $^{\dagger}$  trust in you! R

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> My soul has a desire and longing for the courts | of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may <sup>1</sup> lay her young,

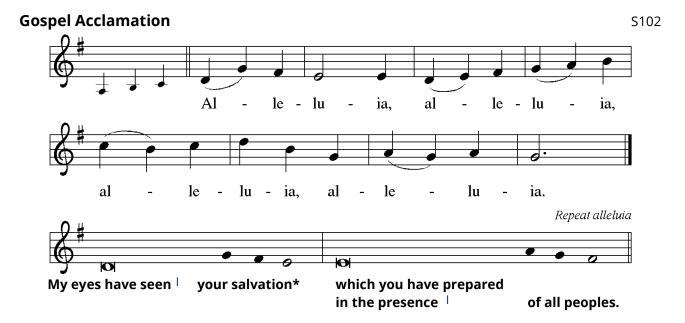
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Happy are the people whose strength <sup>1</sup> is in you, whose hearts are set on the <sup>1</sup> pilgrims' way.

# **Reading from the New Testament**

**Hebrews 2:14-18** 

- R A reading from Hebrews.
  - <sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.
- R The Word of the Lord. Or, Word of God, word of life.
- A Thanks be to God!

The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.



Gospel Luke 2:22-40

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

### A Glory to you, O Lord!

- <sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."
- <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

- <sup>29</sup> "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
- <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,
  - <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
- <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."
- <sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."
- <sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.
- <sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him
- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- A Praise to you, O Christ!

The Gospel Acclamation is sung once again.
The Assembly is then seated.

# Sermon Time of Silence

A bell will sound to signal a time of silence for reflection.

During this time, you may want to meditate on one word from the scriptures or from the sermon that stands out to you, asking the Spirit to show you how it applies to your own life.

When the bell sounds a second time, the Assembly stands to respond to the Word with song.



# The Apostle's Creed

L With the whole Church, let us profess our faith.

A I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the + resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

# **Prayers of the People**

L With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

(brief pause)

L God of generations, you instilled in Anna and Simeon faith, dreams, and the welcome of a child. Bless elders who embody faith and hope; bless the newly baptized. Energize us to share faith from generation to generation. God of grace,

# A **§** hear our prayer.

L God of service, we resolve to serve our community using all of our gifs. We pray for our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, our pastor Mark, our president Michael, our council, our ministries, and all who guide and instruct our community. God of grace,

# A hear our prayer.

L God of creation, in you the sparrow finds a home and we find lush valleys and living water. Bless the birds of the air, the animals of the valley, and renew our stewardship of this bountiful creation. God of grace,

# A hear our prayer.

L God of the nations, strengthen our resolve to care for all children and strive for peace among nations. Refine our nation where we have failed to root out racism and guide us in truth-telling and reconciliation. God of grace,

# A hear our prayer.

L God of hope, many long to see your presence revealed amid challenging circumstances. We hold in prayer all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and health and wellness, especially, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Marlene Chatain, Nancy Graf, Dori Jacobson-Wenzel, Jim Jung, Mark Kraemer, Nancy Lang, Elaine Nelson, Kathy Roderer, Steve Warner, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts [...]. God of grace,

# A hear our prayer.

L God of the people, you are made known in caring ministries. Bless those who serve as communion servers, homebound visitors, baptismal sponsors, confirmation mentors, and as prayer support. Reveal yourself in the neighborly care we give and receive. God of grace,

# A hear our prayer.

L And now, sisters and brothers, for what else shall we pray?

The petitions and thanksgivings of the Assembly, silent or spoken aloud, are invited.

L God of grace,

### A hear our prayer.

L God of life, we thank you for Jesus' life and for his death that has destroyed death. We remember the dearly departed especially Ansgar and the Martyrs of Japan, as they dwell with you in your holy courts now and forever. God of grace,

#### A hear our prayer.

P We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

A Amen.

#### **Peace**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

A • And also with you.

Greet one another in the peace of Christ, saying "Peace be with you,"

"The peace of the Lord," or similar words.

The Assembly is seated.

**Meal:** God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ ...

**Offering** An offering for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need.

**Offering Music** 

"Hope for Resolution"

Arr. by Paul Caldwell/Sean Ivory. Dana Barron, Flautist

Of the Father's love begotten, E'er the worlds began to be. He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he.

Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

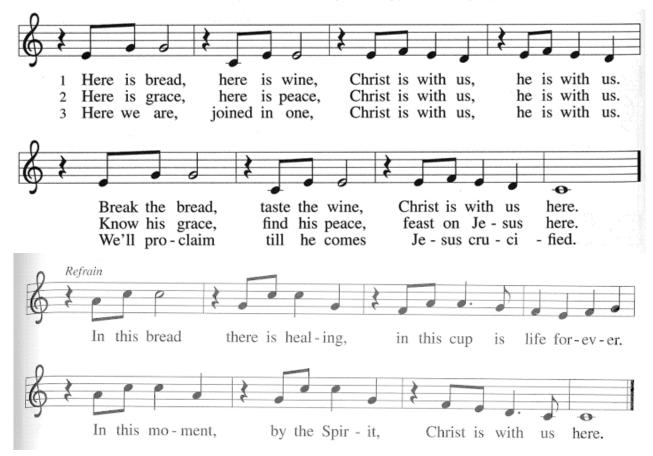
O ye heights of heav'n adore him, Angel hosts his praises sing, Pow'rs, dominions bow before him, And extol our God and King.

Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring. Evermore and evermore.

Thula sizwe, ungabokhala, uJehovah wakho uzokunqobela. Inkululeko, sizoyithola, uJehovah wakho uzokunqobela.

Nation, do not cry. Jehovah will protect us. We will attain freedom. Jehovah will protect us.

The Assembly stands and sings as the gifts are brought forward.

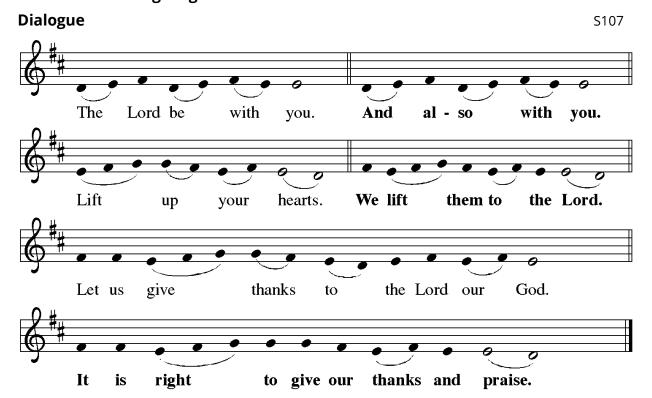


# **Offering Prayer**

- L Let us pray.
- L God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

#### A Amen.

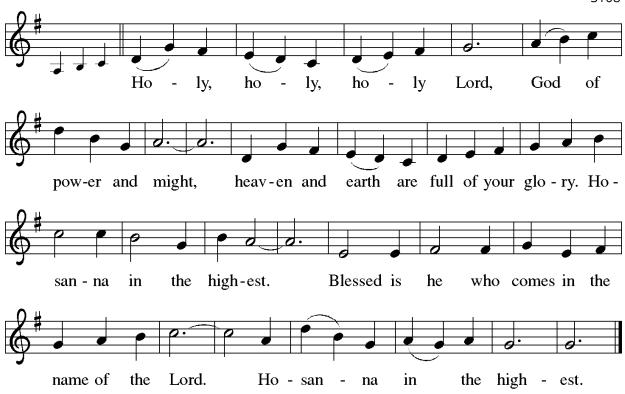
# The Great Thanksgiving



**Preface** The Presiding Minister begins the prayer:

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



# Thanksgiving at the Table

P Blessed are you, O holy God:

you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness

and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

his preaching and healing,

his dying and rising,

and his promise to come again,

we await that day when all the universe

will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

#### A Amen.

#### The Lord's Prayer

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- A Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done

on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

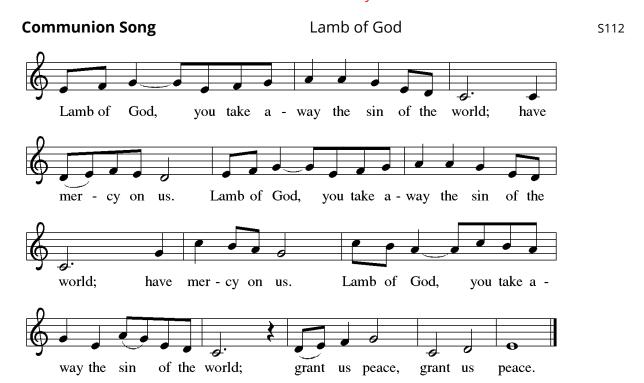
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

# The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

- P The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.
- A 🚇 We come to the table with open hearts

The Assembly is seated.



# **Distribution of Holy Communion**

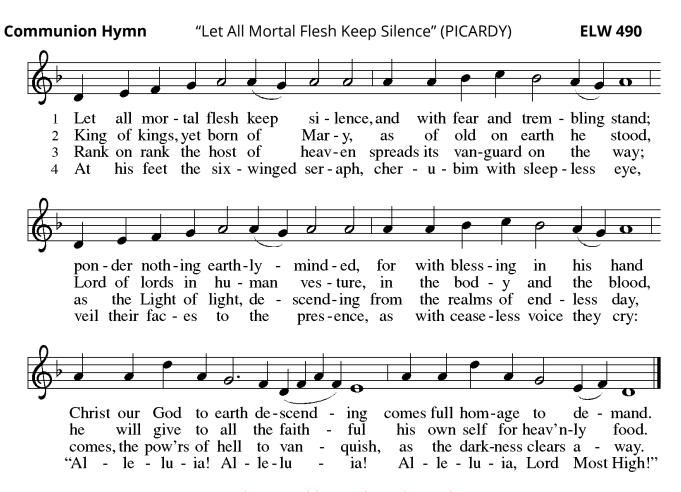
For those who are communing with the packets or online, the pastor will say "The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you."

Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct, to assemble around the rail to receive communion. Those who are able may kneel. You will receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. Empty glasses will be collected by the Acolyte. This will be a continuous communion.

- P This is the body of Christ, given for you. *All communing remotely or with individual packets may partake of the bread.*
- P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

  All communing remotely or with individual packets may drink of their cup.

  When you receive the elements, you may respond by saying, "Amen."



The Assembly stands as directed.

#### **Blessing after Communion**

P May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace.

#### A Amen.

# **Prayer after Communion**

L Let us pray...
Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray.

A Amen.

**Sending:** God blesses us, and sends us in mission to the world ...

#### **Blessing**

- The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.
- A B Amen.

### This week's commemorations....

# Presentation of Our Lord Sunday, February 2, 2025

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

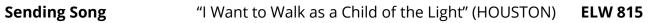
# Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865 Monday, February 3, 2025

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

# The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597 Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.

From sundaysandseasons.com





Continued on the next page...



#### **Dismissal**

- L Go in peace. Live in hope.
- A Thanks be to God.

#### **Postlude**

"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" by Niels Gade

Please stay for a time of fellowship and announcements immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall.

Today's refreshments are hosted by Hal & Lisa Larson. The Justice & Equity Ministry presents "A Japanese-American
Family's Experience during WWII" after Coffee Hour.

Come enjoy one another's company and learn what's happening in and throughout the Immanuel congregation!!

To join coffee hour via Zoom on a smartphone, scan with your camera to get the link.



# Serving in worship today...

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Mark Sloss
Assisting Minister	Kit McCarthy
Lector	
Acolyte	Elora Kloster
Organist	Christine Kraemer
Music Director	James Morehead
Musician	Dana Barron
Table Preparation	
Zoom Host	Jim McCarthy
Audio-Visual Technician	Kevin McDaniel
Ushers	Bert Mount, Nicolai Schousboe
Counter	Kit McCarthy

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**Upcoming Events –** for details see the weekly e-blast, *Immanuel Newsfeeds,* or the website Calendar at <a href="https://www.immanuelevanston.org">www.immanuelevanston.org</a>. Worship services can be attended either in person or online.

Sunday, Feb. 2	Justice & Equity Ministry Talk: A Japanese-American Family's Experience, WWII	11:45 am
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Tai Chi Class	6:30 am
	Midweek Gathering on Zoom	2:00 pm
Wednesday, Feb. 5	FA Meeting	6:30 pm
	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Thursday, Feb. 6	Tai Chi Class	6:30 am
	Daytime Quilters	9:00 am
	Wilmette Band Rehearsal	7:30 pm
Sunday, Feb. 9	Feeding Our Faith	9:00 am
	Sunday Worship	10:30 am

# Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

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The Rev. Mark Sloss	Pastor
Michael Kloster	Congregation President
Terri Simchak	Congregation Vice President
Dana Barron	Congregation Secretary
Susan Ross	Congregation Treasurer
Greg Hummel, Diane Keely, Jerry Larson, Kit McCarthy, Steve Warner	Congregation Council Members
Laurie Stivers	Financial Secretary
James Morehead	
Christine Kraemer	
Laurie Stivers	Associate Organist
Jane Kaihatsu	Parish Administrator

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Metropolitan Chicago Synod. We've been worshiping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!